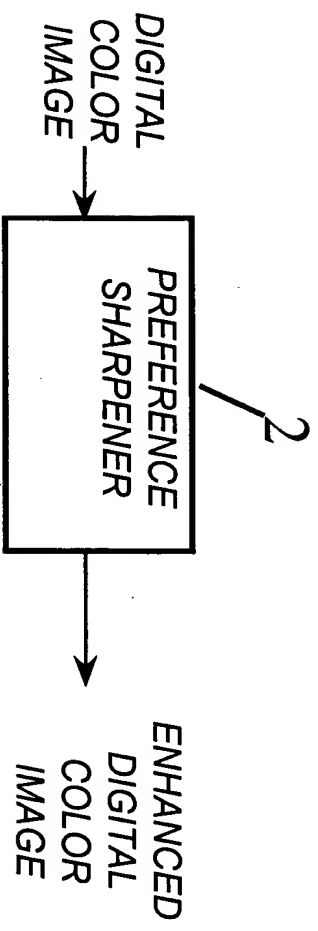


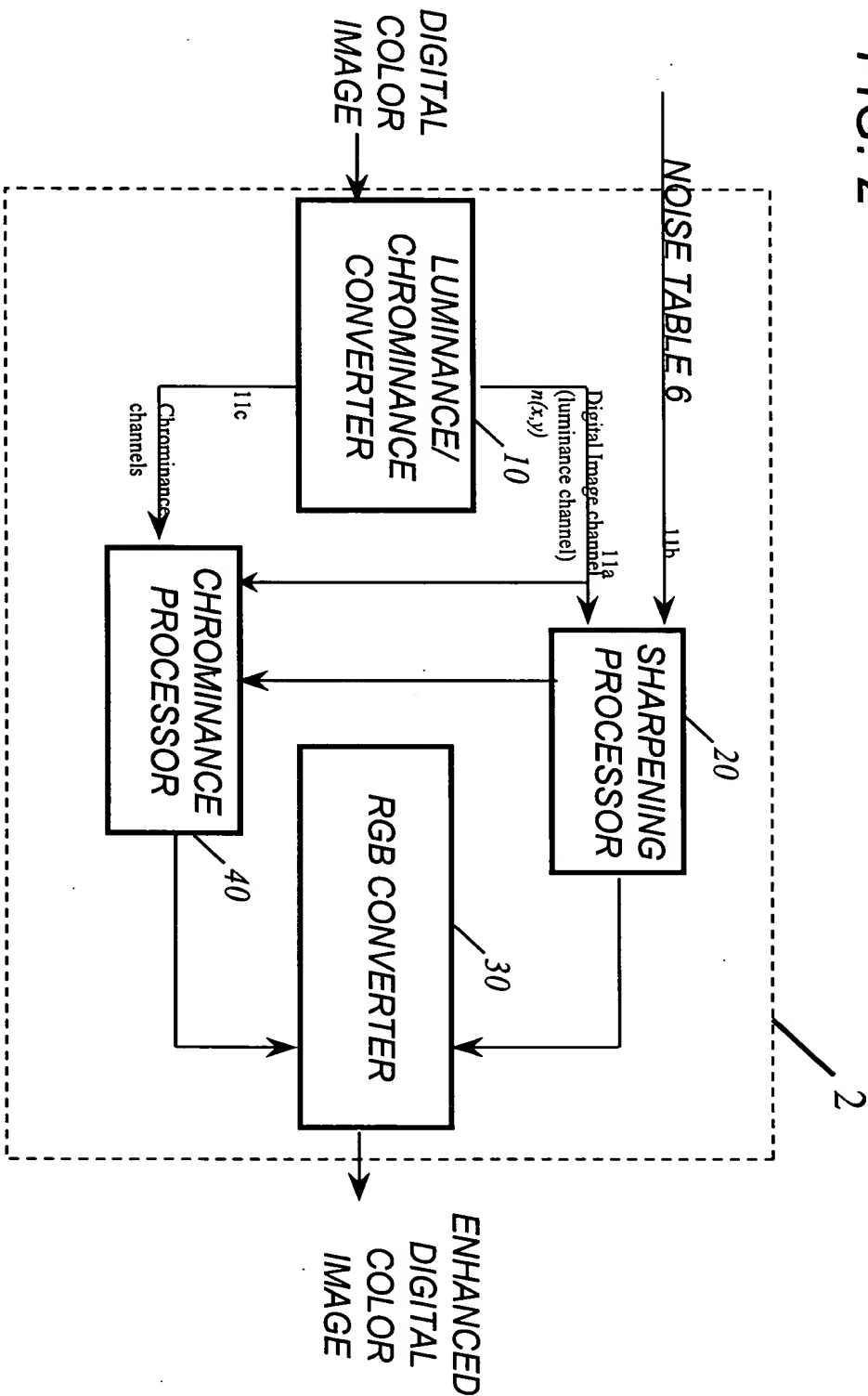
(system diagram)

FIG. 1



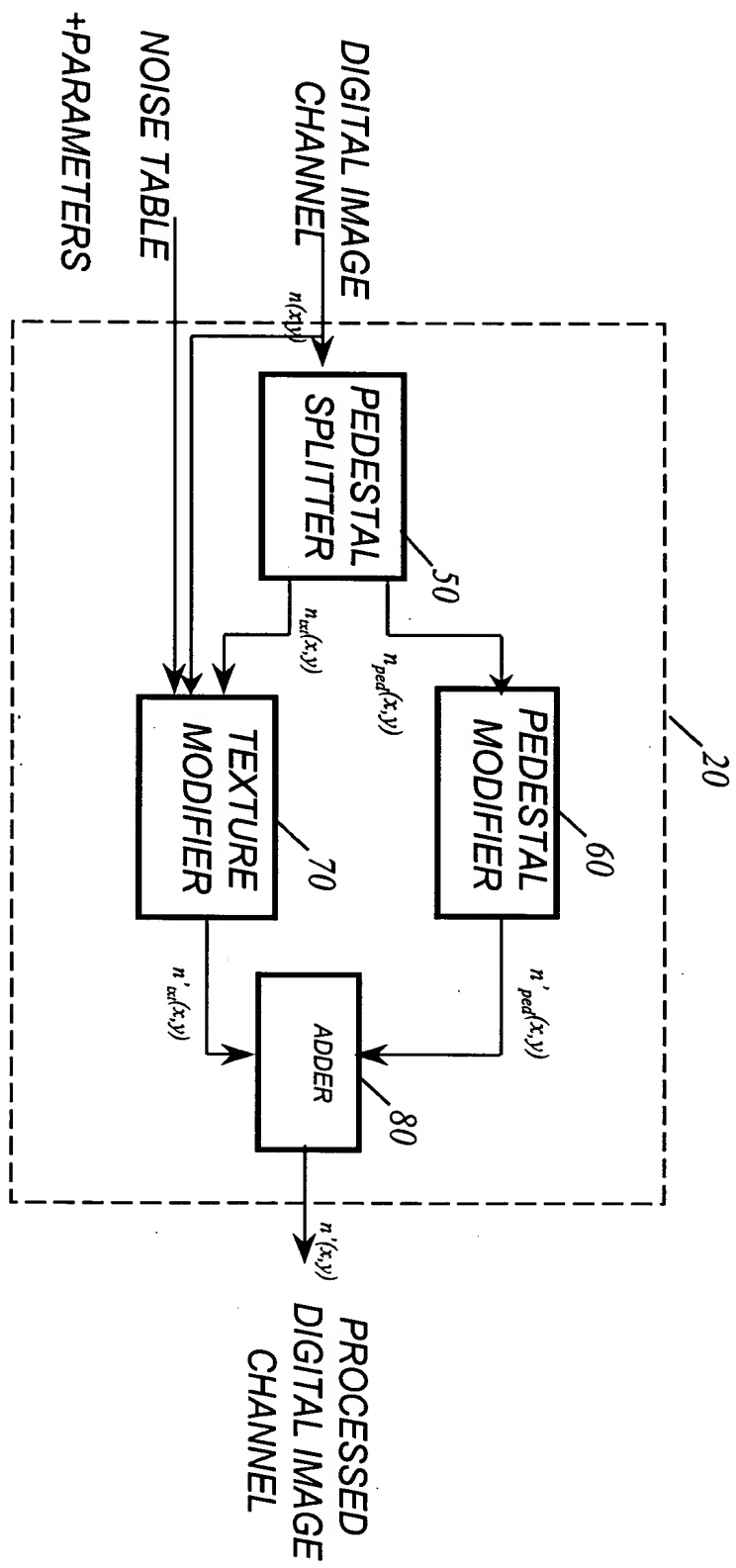
(system diagram)

FIG. 2



(sharpening processor 20)

FIG. 3



(Sharpening processor 20)

FIG. 4

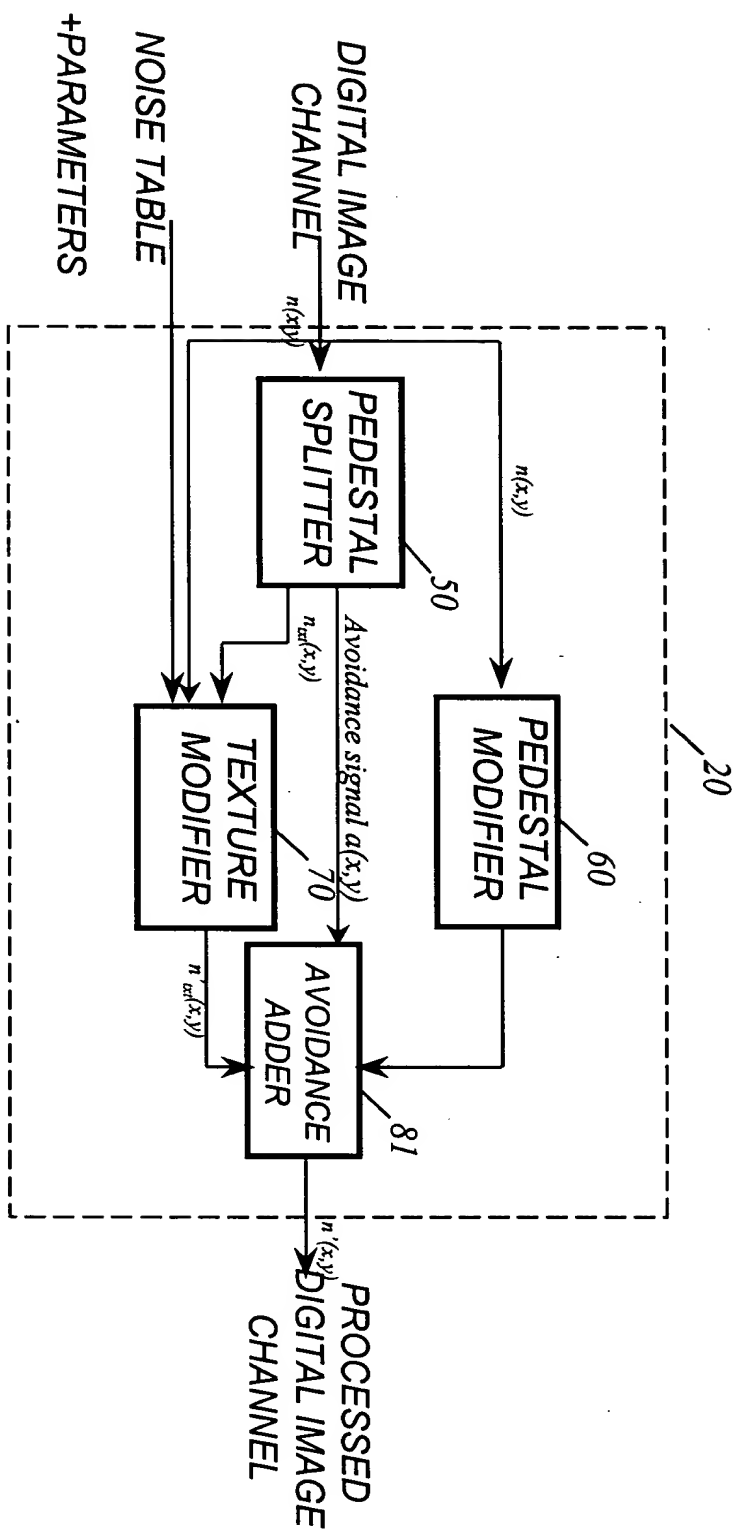


FIG. 5
(PEDESTAL SPLITTER)

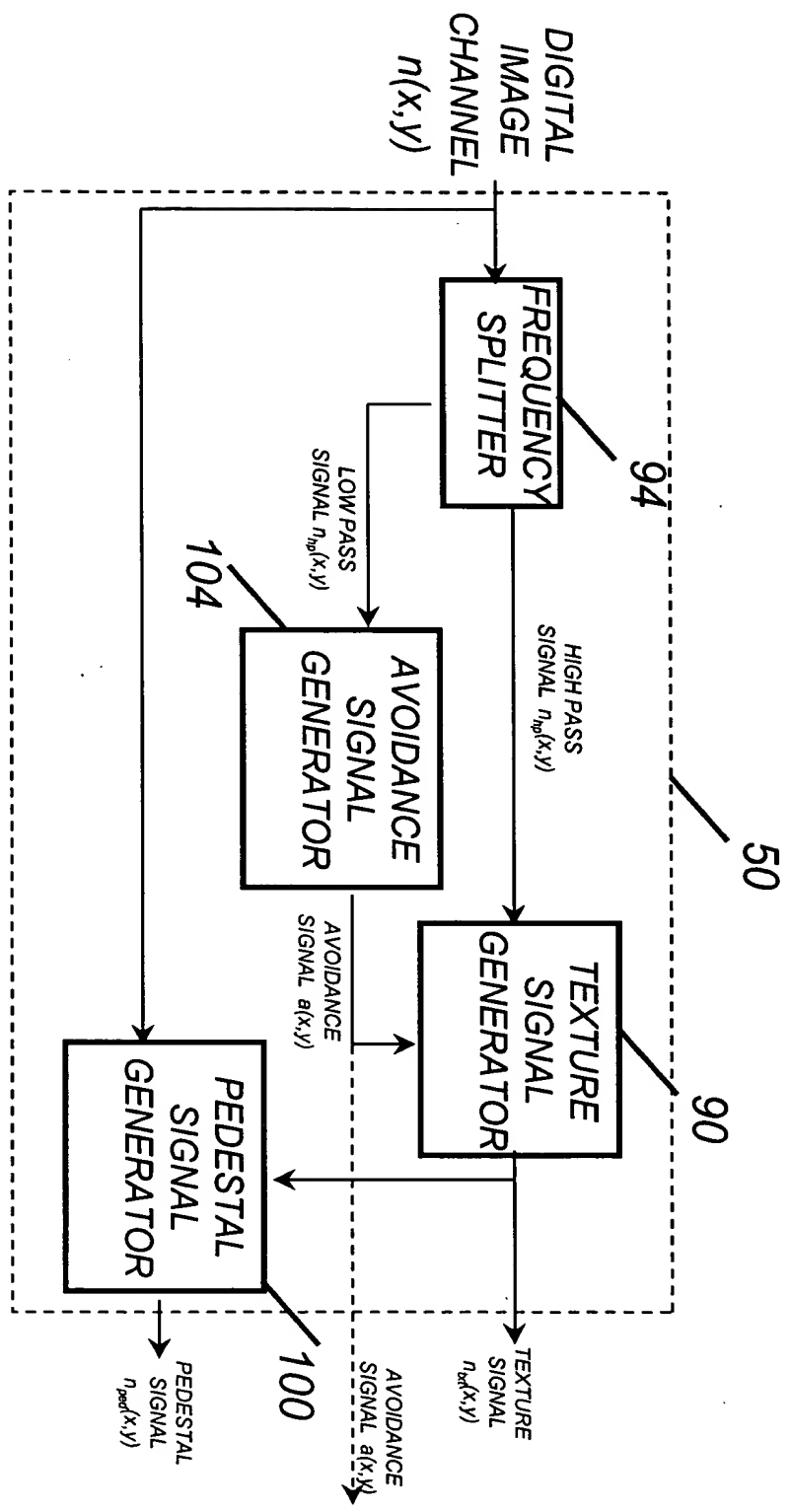


FIG. 5A (ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENT OF THE PEDESTAL SPLITTER)

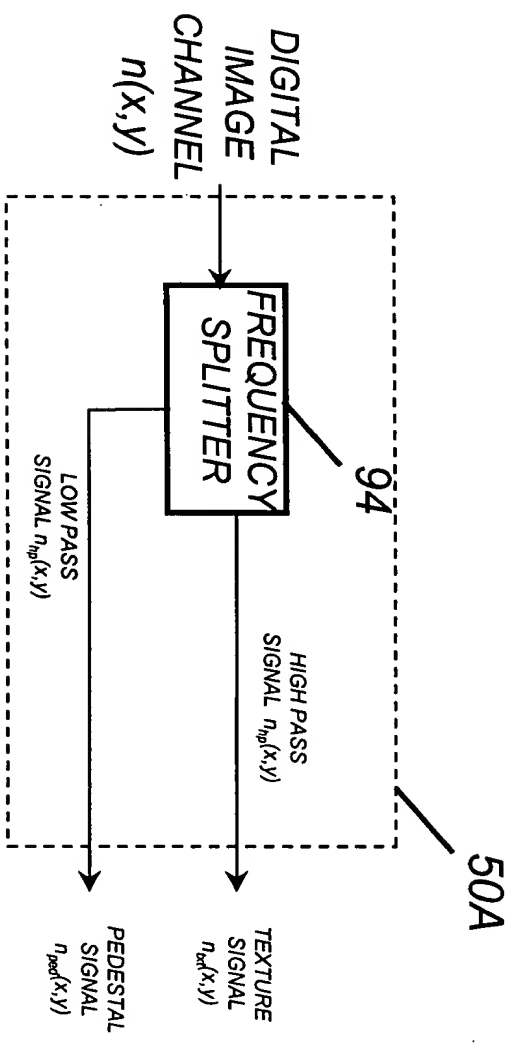
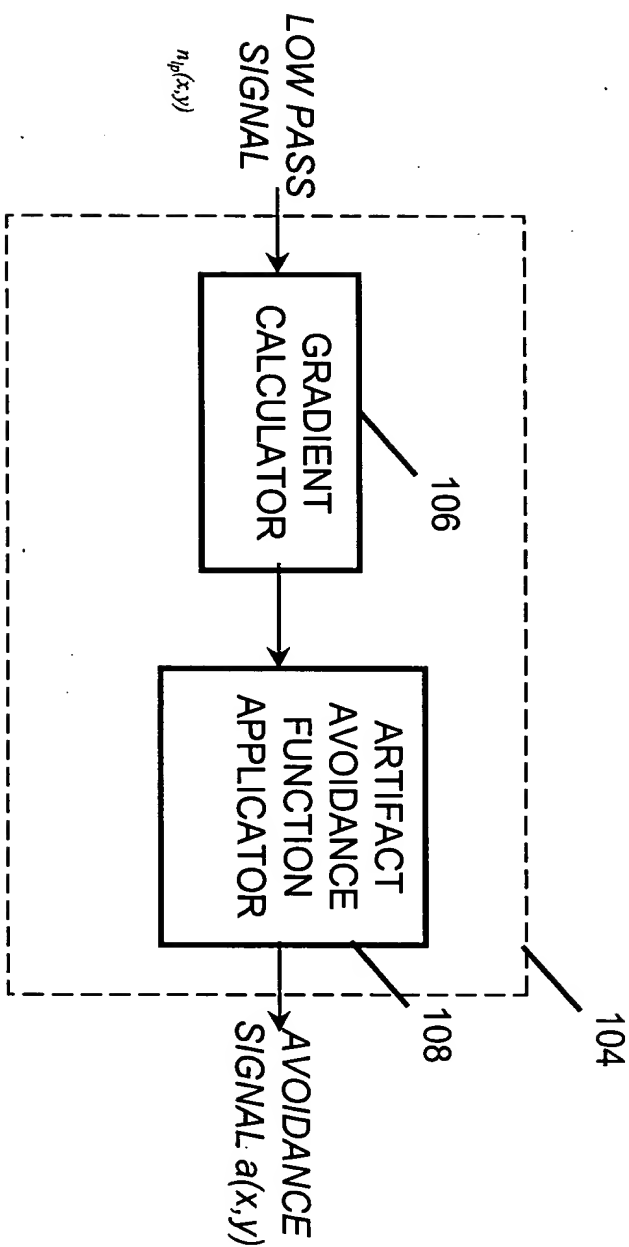


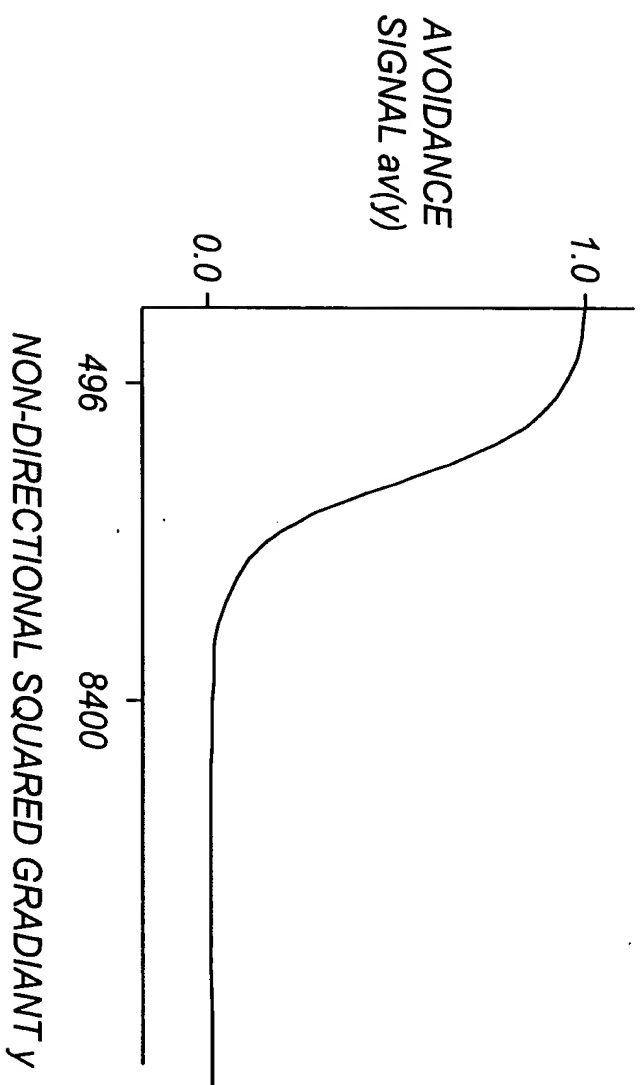
FIG. 6

(AVOIDANCE SIGNAL GENERATOR)



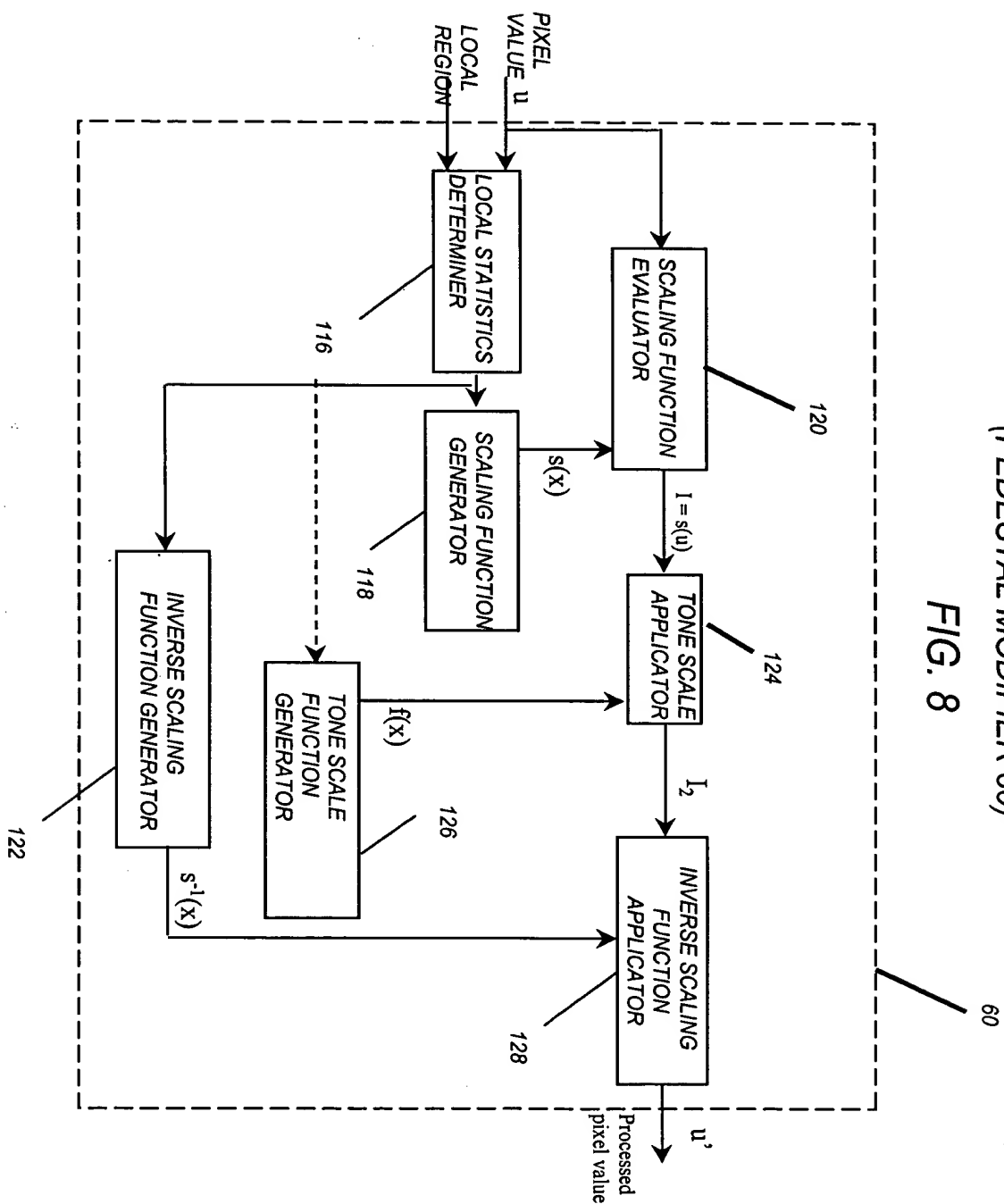
(ARTIFACT AVOIDANCE FUNCTION)

FIG. 7



(PEDESTAL MODIFIER 60)

FIG. 8



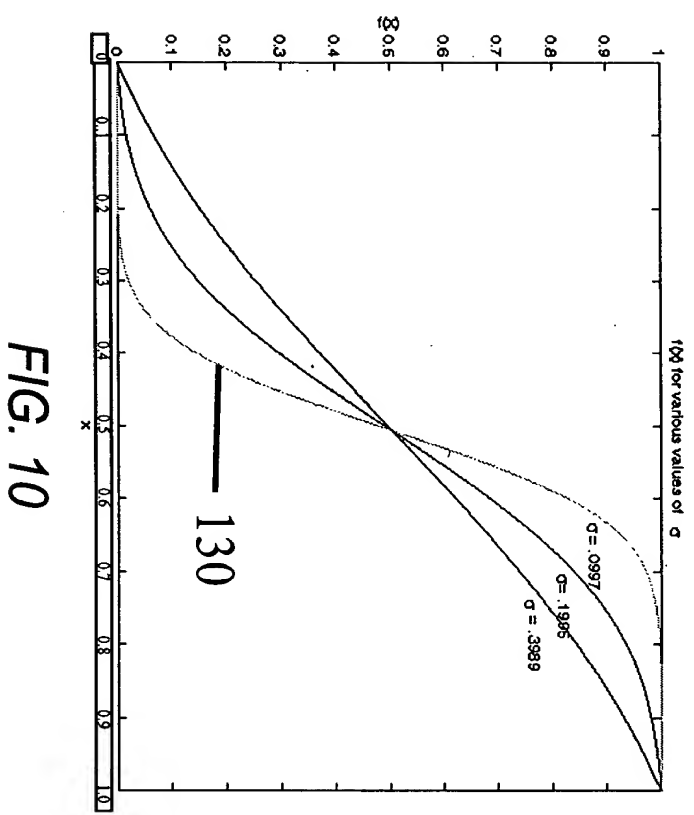
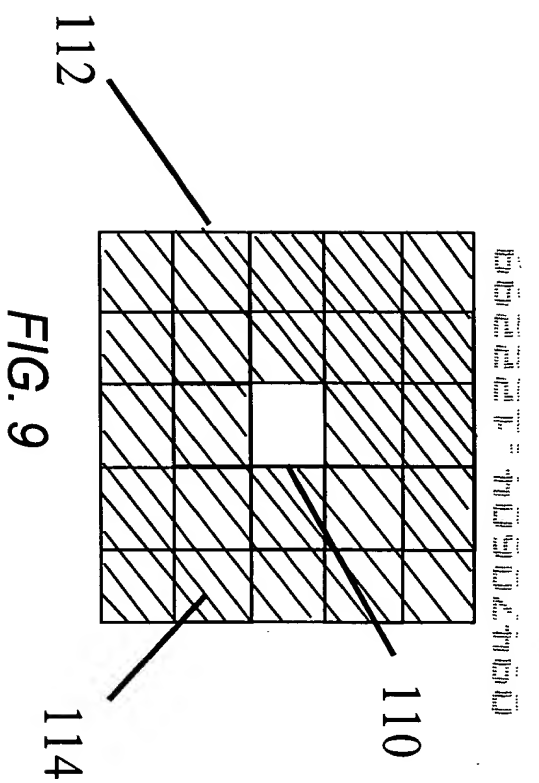


FIG. 11

(texture modifier 70)

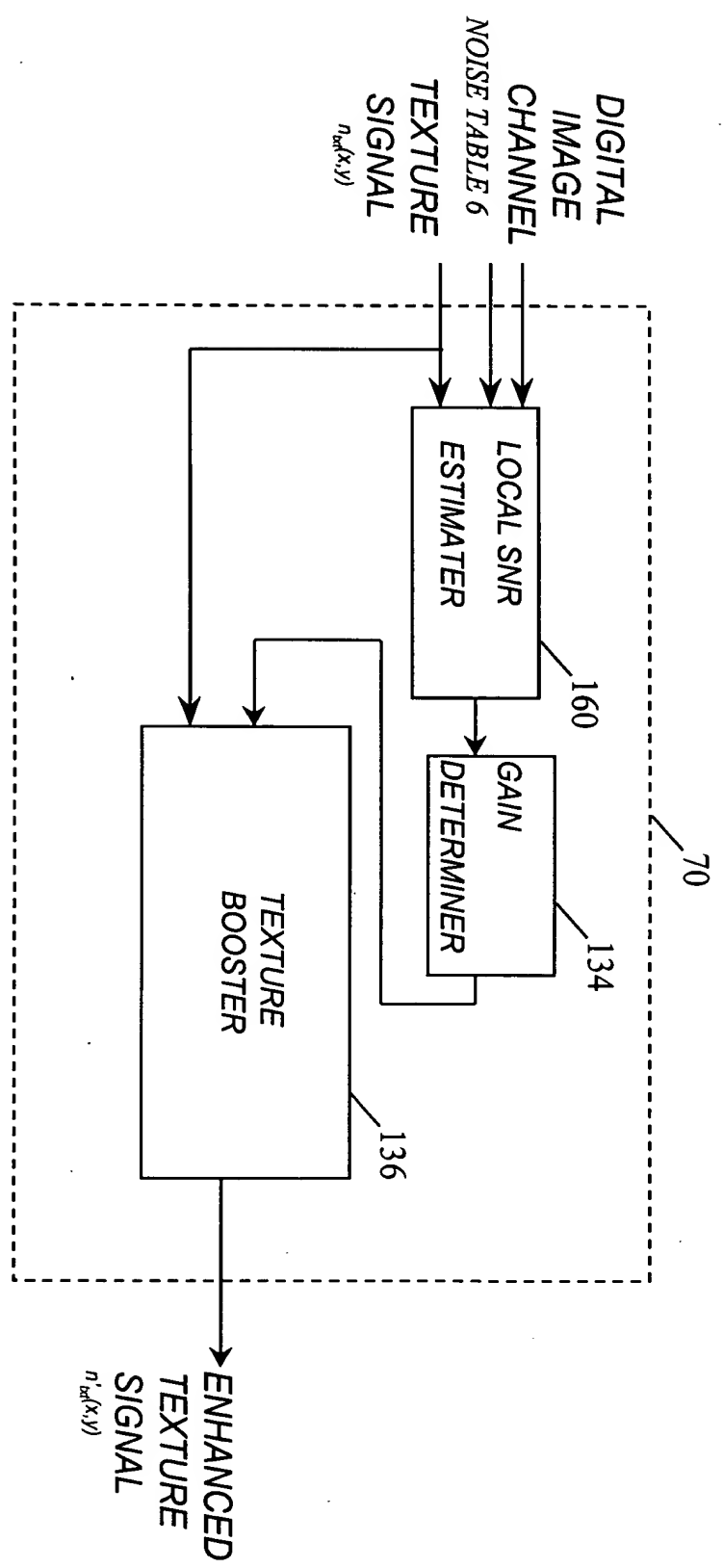
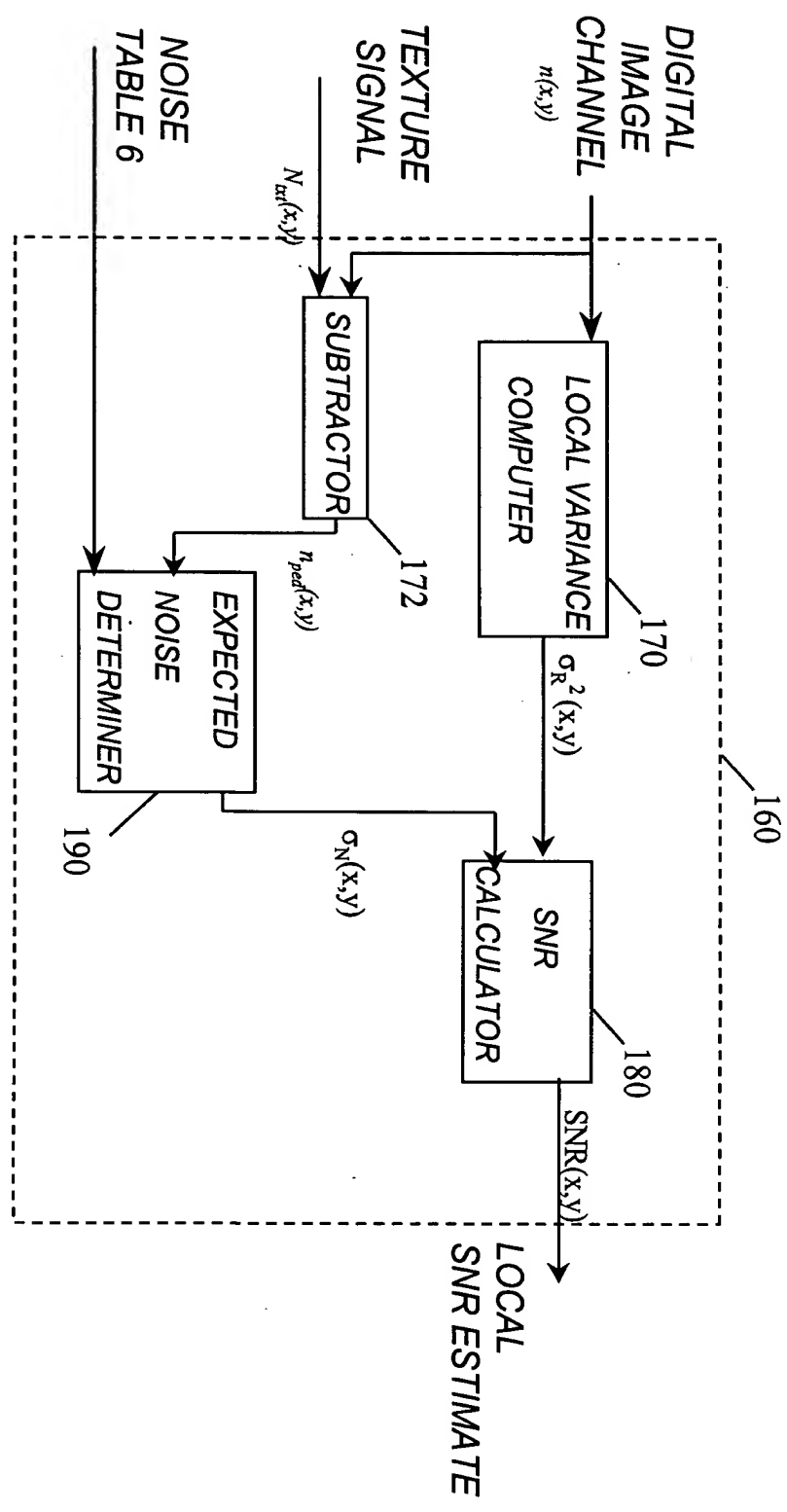


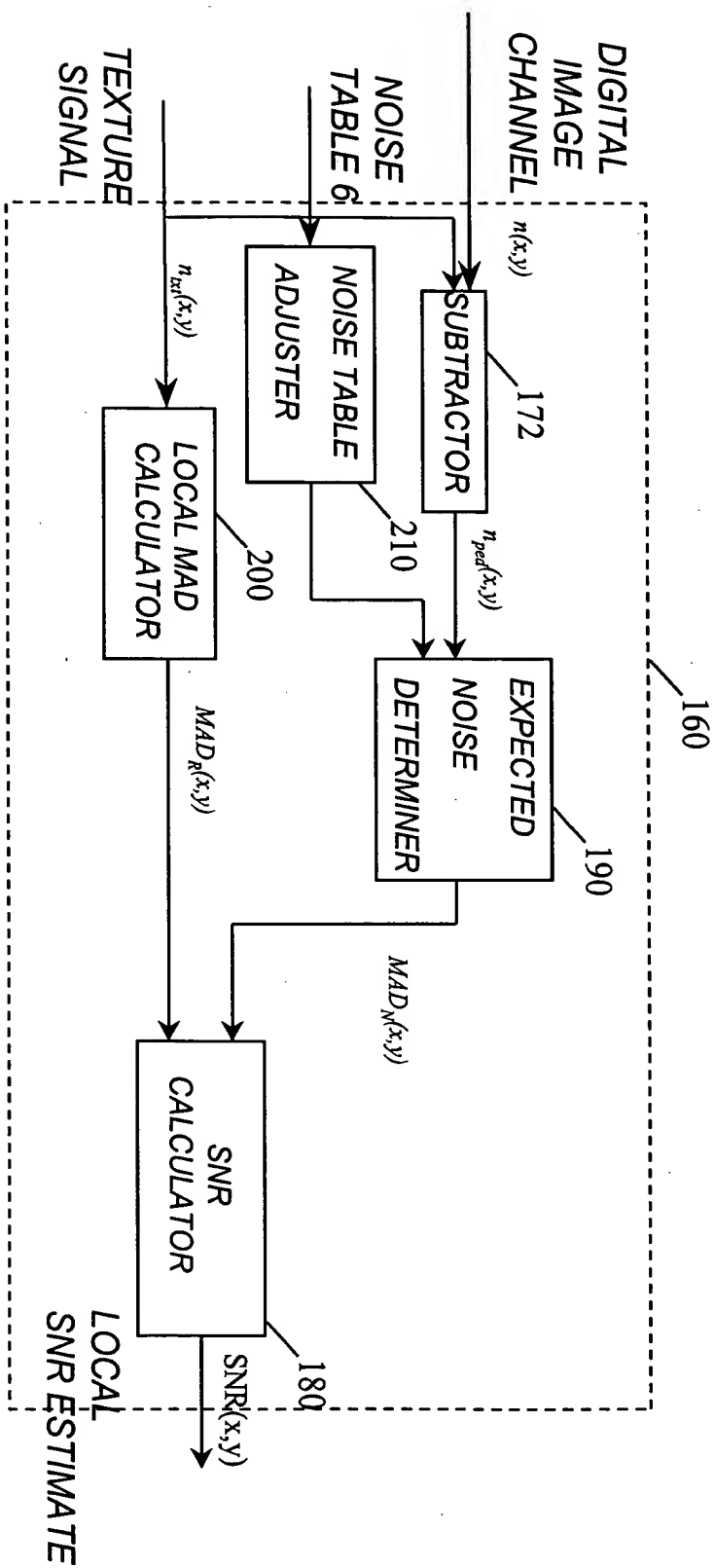
FIG. 12

(LOCAL SNR ESTIMATOR 115)



(ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENT OF LOCAL SNR ESTIMATOR 160)

FIG. 13



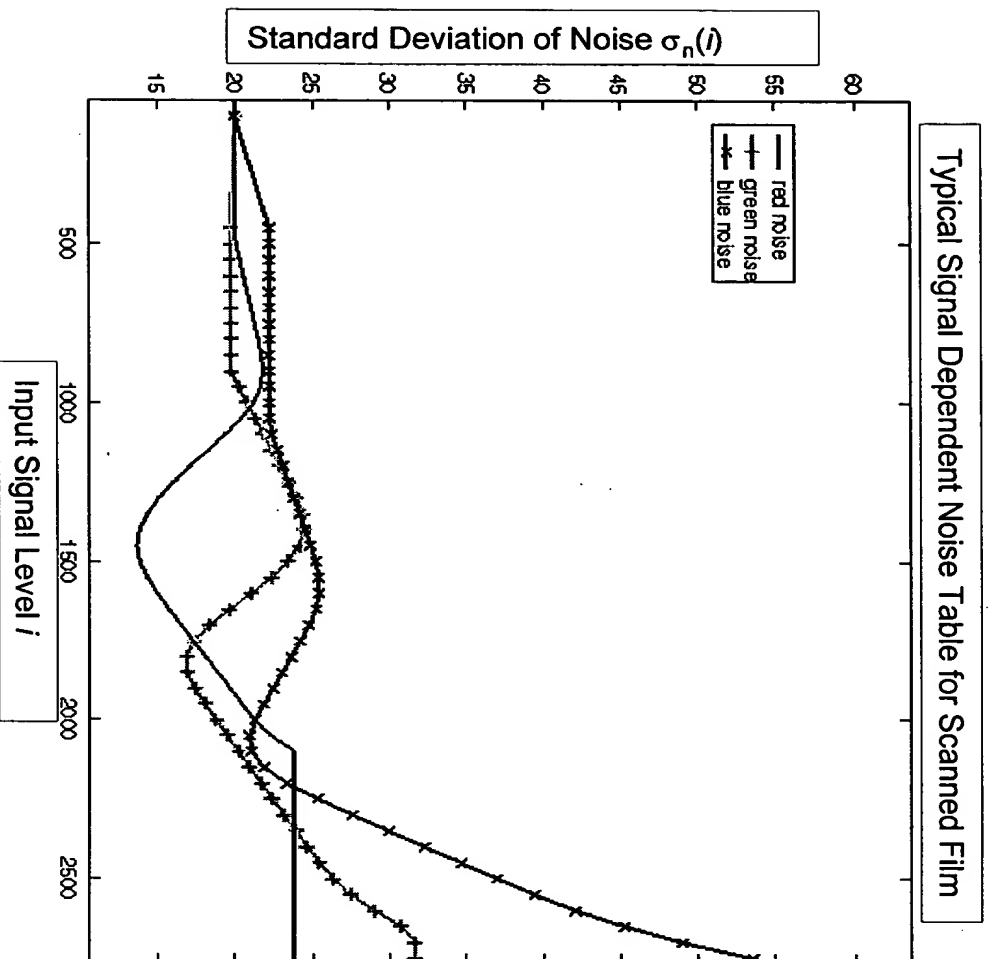


Fig. 14

Gain β 